

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
10/632,277	WEI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Frederick F. Rosenberger	2884

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to the Amendment filed 2 August 2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-37.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's reply, filed 2 August 2006, has been received and entered.

Accordingly, claim 1 has been amended. No claims have been cancelled or added.

Thus, claims 1-37 remain pending in this application.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jenifer Haeckl (Reg. No. 41,812) on 7 September 2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended) A high performance reflector system for use on scintillator elements contained in a scintillator array of a computed tomograph imaging system, the scintillator elements having a reflective material coupled along its surface defined within the gaps between scintillator elements, the reflective material comprising:

 A smoothening layer applied to a top surface and to each of four adjacent side surfaces of each of said a plurality of said scintillator elements;

 A metallic reflective layer applied to said smoothening layer; and

A top layer applied to said metallic reflective layer, said top layer providing an environmental barrier to said metallic reflective layer, and wherein the scintillator array is two-dimensional (2D).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-37 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 recites a reflective material for a high performance reflector system for use on scintillator elements in a two-dimensional array of a CT imaging system, the reflective material comprising, among other elements, a smoothening layer applied to a top surface and to each of four adjacent side surfaces of each of said scintillator elements. While Englert et al. disclose a similar layer arrangement, Englert et al. fail to teach the limitation of the smoothening layer applied to the surfaces of the scintillator elements of a two-dimensional array. Instead, Englert et al. teach a layer arrangement formed on the adhesion layer of a one-dimensional array. Further, there is no teaching or reasonable suggestion in Englert et al. or the prior art of record for removing the adhesion layer to provide the claimed reflective material on the surfaces of the scintillator elements. As such, claim 1 and associated dependent claims 2-19 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

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accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Frederick F. Rosenberger whose telephone number is 571-272-6107. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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GAU 2884


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